

I am sending this information to find out if you have other similar records. I was told by a local villager that some years ago he had seen a python coiled round a fully grown panther cub.

HINGOLGADH CASTLE,
JASDAN, KATHIAWAD,
September 25, 1958.

RAJA OF JASDAN

[In a previous issue (51: 945) the same writer has described a python capturing and coiling itself round a chinkara doe.

In Volume 54 (p. 196) appears a note by U Tun Yin with photograph of a python in Burma that had swallowed a small thamin (*Cervus eldii*) shortly before. But of the many other notes published in the *Journal* on the food of the python perhaps the most remarkable is that by Major Arundel Begbie (17: 1021) who cut out of a snake 18 ft. long a well-grown leopard measuring 4 ft. 2 in. from nose to rump. The tail was too decomposed to be accurately measured. The panther had been swallowed head first with its forearms stretched out in front.—EDS.]

17. VOCAL SOUNDS FROM SNAKES

Note 16 in Volume 55 reporting vocal sounds from a python (*P. molurus*) and a dhaman (*Ptyas mucosus*) reminded me at once of an occasion in 1930 in Wad Medani in the Sudan when I seized with a pair of metal forceps a young lined house snake, *Boodon lineatus*. It squeaked once, quite definitely, the noise being suggestive of something between the squeak of a mouse and that of a press-the-button toy animal.

Some years back, I seem to remember correspondence, in *The Field* I believe, about booming or bell-like noises from puff-adders, *Bitis arietans*. In the Sudan, in southern Kordofan and elsewhere there is, or was, folk belief of snakes making noises to lure animals as prey, but few except the simple took this as other than fairy tale.

ADEN PROTECTORATE HEALTH SERVICE
HEADQUARTERS,
KHORMAKSAR, ADEN,
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